

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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Idaho Honey Production Increased 37 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 6.30 million pounds, a 37 percent increase from 2003. Honey producing colonies remain unchanged from last year's estimate at 100,000 colonies. Yield per colony averaged 63.0 pounds, up 17 pounds from the 46.0 pounds in 2003. Producer honey stocks were 2.52 million pounds on December 15, 2004, an increase of 83 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is 101.0 cents, down 32 cents from a year ago.

Nationally, honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the All Other Honey, Area Specialties class. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.